Tianyu Zhang

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EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University School of Computer Science

Pittsburgh, PA

B.S. in Artificial Intelligence; GPA: 3.92/4.00, Dean's List. Relevant courses:

Expected Dec 2022

- o CS: *Database, Distributed Systems, *Search Engines, Parallel Data Structures & Algorithms, Software Design
- o ML: Advanced Deep Learning, *Deep Learning Systems, Natural Language Processing, ML with Large Datasets

Work Experience

Uber

San Francisco, CA

Jun 2021 - Aug 2021

Software Engineer Intern

- o End-to-end owned, designed, developed, and launched the Uber Eats home feed dish recommendation carousel to 90M global users, boosting top-level business metrics. Coded in Java, Go, PySpark, and HiveQL.
- o Trained and indexed DL embeddings in Uber's homegrown search system. Served embeddings for candidates retrieval using a novel approach that elevated recall rate by 4x with the same resource as baseline.
- Implemented eater history retrieval based on personalized order and click data.
- Prepared feature pipelines. Trained, tuned, and served a XGBoost model for candidates ranking.

ByteDance (TikTok)

Beijing

Software Engineer Intern

Jun 2020 - Aug 2020

- Live Stream Recommendation with Graph Embedding:
 - * Built a distributed user-author graph from petabyte log data using MapReduce.
 - * Devised ML graph encoders and end-to-end training architecture with Tensorflow to predict click-through-rate.
 - * Optimized mini-batch forward latency of internal ML trainer by 40%+ in graph embedding training.
 - * Boosted TikTok online user staytime +3.5%, etc. in AB tests and rolled out to 600M Chinese users.
- Systems for Engineering Efficiency:
 - * Developed a model health monitor and alert system from scratch in Django with RESTful APIs. Onboarded 100+ online models across 5 products with 50+ internal users. Reduced response time to <1hr.
 - * Constructed an analysis pipeline on 300+ features that modifies terabyte model checkpoints distributedly based on analysis result. Saved 35k+ core-hour computing resources than hand-tuning.

CMU Machine Learning Department

Pittsburgh, PA

Teaching Assistant for 10-605 Machine Learning with Large Datasets

Feb 2021 - Jun 2021

- o Designed a major assignment from scratch, with write-ups, tutorial videos, and starter codes. Onboarded 140+ students to ML at scale with Spark and AWS.
- Wrote exams; led weekly recitations and office hours for 20+ undergraduate and graduate students.

Research Experience

TheSys Group, CMU Parallel Data Lab

Pittsburgh, PA

Research Assistant

Nov 2020 - Present

- o Researched fault tolerance in distributed recommender systems training with Prof. Rashmi K. Vinayak.
- o Coded and experimented with different fault tolerance strategies, e.g. replication, checkpointing, and erasure coding, in the open-source training system XDL to understand efficiency tradeoffs.
- Proposed a novel multi-level approach that utilizes a hybrid fault tolerance strategy to minimize time and memory overhead. Worked on its implementation, benchmarking, and paper drafting.

PROJECTS

- TinyNet: (WIP) A PyTorch-like automatic differentiation library with CPU and GPU acceleration. (C++, Python)
- AlpacaHub: (WIP) An env, data, and model versioning framework for machine learning workflows. (JS, Python)
- QASys: A question generation and answering system on text with rule-based and neural backend. (NLTK, PyTorch)
- BitcoinMiner: A failure-recoverable distributed Bitcoin miner with the homegrown Live Sequence Protocol. (Go)
- Finger: A tiny-screen-optimized input keyboard with trie and ngram empowered autocompletion. (Java)
- Pop!: A crowd-sourcing notification app that allows users to send signals to groups in real-time. (React, Django)

SKILLS

- Languages: Java, Go, C/C++, Python, SQL, Standard ML
- DevOps: Spark/MapReduce, Tensorflow/PyTorch, Hive/Presto, Docker, HDFS, Kafka, Protobuf, ElasticSearch